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His First, Her Last: The Incredible True Story Of An American Lost In The Philippines



Synopsis

Engaged couple Jason and Hazel travel across the world to meet her family in this true story of love and adventure. The moment Jason steps off the plane in the Philippines, an exotic island caught between the East and the West, the past and the present, grabs hold of this naive American and seduces him with its beauty, its places, and its people. Temptation looms as the best friend of Hazel tests their relationship and touches their souls. A deeply personal account of the conflict of culture between American excess and Philippine poverty, *His First, Her Last* explores the ability of love to transcend two worlds apart. But after an accident spills blood on the streets of a remote village, the lives of this couple flash before their eyes. Will he escape? Will she survive? Will his first trip be her last? Take a journey across the world to an exotic land where you will find love, life, and what it means to be alive. This book is suitable for readers of all ages, including Young Adults! Download a FREE sample NOW!

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Customer Reviews

it was a sad ending to what should have been the holiday of a life time. Jason goes to the Philippines to meet his fiancée, Hazel, family and friends. The lack of understanding of her culture that has been commented on in other reviews is pretty common I would have thought. How can you understand something so different to what you are used to without seeing an experiencing it. It is sad that in the 21st century there are still people living in such poor surroundings, but hopefully one day they will catch up with the rest of the world. Hazels family and friends were so understanding of how scared Jason was, and rightly so. Jason's travel tips at the end are well worth remembering, especially if you are visiting a country where you do not speak the language. The only thing that I stopped me giving it 5 stars are the parts where Jason went on and on about Joy, his fiancée's best friend. I can't imagine how she felt reading this account of their time together - although the spa story was funny. Maybe these bits were embellished slightly, given what happened.

Let me begin with a disclosure that I am a proud Filipino, so that I can rate this beautiful e book w/o positive bias. I love this book, because, Mr. Sturak is honest in expressing his lovable, traumatic and endearing experience in the Philippines, relating the good points and the areas of improvement of this lovable exploited country - Philippines. also, his realization that there is more to life than money (importance of family, friendship, aspiration in life and of course love!) Lastly, I admire his respect and admiration to the unique culture of the Filipinos and at the same time proud of being an American.

There were things about it I liked and some not so much. Learning what life was really like in the Philippines was most interesting. Jason's descriptions of every day life and every day people was a real eye opener. At times, I felt like I was there with him. From the beginning, I knew something tragic was going to happen and that is where I couldn't put the book down. It kept me turning pages until I got to the end. His advice at the end was particularly valuable. Sometimes I wonder why we have US Embassies. This is the second book I have read where emergencies existed and the embassy was useless; a sad commentary on the state of our U.S. Embassies, which should be a haven for U.S. travelers abroad. Some parts of the book were not compelling; but, nonetheless interesting. Worth reading.

Note to Hazel - Hazel - In America, Jason - Jason is considered horrible husband material. Run, girl,

because you can do better! Be suspicious of any true-story writer that starts off with a dream sequence; its admitting that he has nothing to serve up. This man-boy did himself no favors by writing this book. He is no storyteller and comes off as ignorant and pathetic as he whines his way through a visit to the Philippines. He writes himself as a hero but he is rather shameful. If this book sounds like adventure, it is not. Nothing but embarrassing drivel happens for three quarters of the book and then a traffic accident sends him scampering home. It is sadly funny to read this guy go on and on about his fears, his security pouch, his hand sanitizer and his daily calls home to mommy, all while he throws money around and constantly lusts for his fiancé's best friend! Wow, the Ugly American, indeed.

I really disliked it. It is poorly written, mostly complaining and discussing how dirty the Philippines are. The story is pretty boring, the characters are one-dimensional, and not interesting at all. The author goes on and on about how much he wants to sleep with his fiancé's best friend (of which if I was the fiancé I would be pretty angry). Just all around not a very good read.

Odd, awkward writing. Author is obsessed with the word "senses," a word he'd be hard-pressed to define. "Her aroma filled his senses." "The smell of mangos engulfed Hazel's senses." "This tickled his senses." "As he filled his senses with bliss, a strange thought entered his mind - he had forgotten the newspaper on the counter at McDonald's." "He led the family inside as the smell of cooked beef dominated his senses." "Every sense in his body focused on the love of his life inside his arms, except for one - his eyes were glued to the sleeping stranger in his bed." "Jason grabbed the bag, the smell arousing his senses." "He yearned to taste her lips, but the sight of Hazel's vexation deadened his senses." "The dog's barking stabbed their senses." There are also strange sentences that refer to senses. "The air in the room was thick, almost chewable, like a piece of week-old bread." "As Jason chewed, his taste buds sang." "The competing smells of food woke up Jason's nose." "Hazel smiled and massaged Jason with her eyes." "There was a natural quality about hearing vocal cords form unrecognizable sounds." "Then, she opened her moist lips and formed words with her vocal cords." "The environment tasted like a bowl of vanilla bean ice cream after a full steak dinner." "His taste buds sang from the smoothness." "Jason looked out at the red lights of the hospital; they entered his eyes and stabbed the welt in his brain." "The dog's barking pierced the American cab and filled Michelle's ears." "The color red screamed. The sound of its energy vibrated. The cones in Jason's eyes burned out, the red seeping past his eyeballs and into his brain. The color pierced his eardrums and surrounded his brain." My favorites are the sentences so poorly

written that I laughed out loud. Even out of context, they are horribly written."He had never been inside a cockpit, but that changed as he entered."Some sold food. Some sold trinkets. Others sold the lonely looks on their faces."She could read his stomach as a mother could read her baby's diaper."Back in America, a horn was designed for safety means and to clear the car's throat at a stopped or slowed vehicle."Then, he saw six legs in front of him on the bed. Two were his because the hair gave them away, but the other four legs were smooth, tanned."Jason counted the eyelashes on her eyes, but as she reached seven, she blinked."He saw a familiar face, the young woman with her third appendage - the plate of fish purses."Jason doused his hands with sanitizer to rid the burger."A group of men was sitting at a table, puffing on cigarettes. They each raped Jason with their eyes."The third person was a middle-aged man with a lazy eye, and a lazy hand that made love to a cigarette."The eyes of the dozen statues punctured Jason, entered his pores, and attacked his soul."Jason locked eyes with her for a moment, a moment that lasted to years, three weeks, and four days."They were going to a primitive place, a place that stabbed his brain."Her brain was fluttering, rebuilding itself like a forensic tool rebuilding a corrupted hard drive."After what seemed a lifetime, Hazel stood up and gripped his soul with her eyes."I would recommend the book only to those who would enjoy writing so strained and confused that the story becomes a comedy.

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